

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests the foregoing amendments be entered into the above-referenced application prior to the calculation of the claim fee and prior to examination on the merits. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments were made solely to bring the above-referenced application into conformance with United States practice. Applicants further note that Claims 7 through 16 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of continuing applications thereon.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being mailed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via Express Mail No. EV 482471132 on December 30, 2004.

Claire Wygand

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